GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:692
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
SETHUSAMUNDRAM PROJECT
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards a news item captioned `Ramsetu Bharat Ke Nakshe Mein Nahin Hai : Balu' published in `Desh Ki Dharti', Kota dated September 23, 2007;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has made any changes/amendments in the project approved originally;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project;

(e) the details of the surveys carried out regarding the project till date; and

(f) the outcome of the survey and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (f): Certain matters connected with the issue are the subject of litigation. Pursuant to an order passed by the Supreme Court on 31.8.2007, dredging work at Adam's Bridge area has been suspended. National Institute of Ocean Technology has carried out bathymetry survey during April, 2005. The National Hydrographic Office (NHO), Dehradun has carried out the pre-dredging and post-dredging surveys for the Project. Periodic progress surveys are carried out by M/s. Dredging Corporation of India. These surveys have been carried out for assessing the quantity of dredging.